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FILE ONLY

University may use tapes against students

By Karen Herzog

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IOWA CITY — University of Iowa officials have a permanent record of last week's anti-CIA protest — and evidence they say could stand up in court if they decided to press charges.

The evidence is a 20-minute videotape of the Oct. 31 skirmish between a dozen protesters and U of I campus security officials.

Four U of I students this week received registered letters notifying them that university charges could be filed against them for their actions during the protest, CIA Off Campus member Bruce Nestor said.

No notice of criminal charges has been received, he said.

U of I officials maintain the protesters possibly violated the school's Code of Student Life when they tried to disrupt job interviews being held in the Iowa Memorial Union by the intelligence agency.

Students who violate the code may be expelled from the university or be required to make restitution.

"The university is doing this in an attempt to intimidate me personally and students in general," Nestor said Friday. "The university at no point during the protest warned anyone that they were violating criminal law or the Code of Student Life."

It was the first time a protest was recorded on videotape, but it won't be the last, said William Tynan, director of U of I campus security.

Tynan said security officials also have videotaped people tearing down goal posts at U of I football games as evidence to support criminal charges.

The only reason other protesters in the past haven't been recorded is that U of I officials didn't have access to video equipment, according to Tynan.

Nestor said he viewed the film Thursday and is trying to arrange a public showing next week.

"They seem to be denying it's a public record," he said.

Tynan said anyone who is charged may see

the film, adding he will turn it over to U of I officials if disciplinary action is taken against any protesters.

Nestor charged that the use of videotape is a "concerted university campaign to squelch university protests."

He said he will decide this weekend whether to meet informally with Julia Mears, assistant to U of I President James O. Freedman, to discuss the charges.

"I'm entirely innocent," Nestor said. "I believe everything I did conformed to the highest standards of moral conduct."

Ann Roen, a U of I senior majoring in political science, said she also believes officials are trying to intimidate protesters, and that her conduct was justified.

She received notice that charges may be filed against her in connection with a CIA protest Oct. 30.

Roen poured an army helmet filled with red paint on the steps of the U of I's administration building Oct. 30, which she said symbolized bloodshed in Central America at the hands of the CIA.

"My action was making a statement of political protest . . .," Roen said.

"I thought protesters' conduct was exemplary during the whole protest," Nestor said.